



Memo

To: Park Board
From: Park and Recreation Staff
Date: July 12, 2013
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for June and early July for your review.

1. Director's report from Ben Wagner:
 - a. *Cramer Awards* – The recipients of the 2013 Cramer Award will be named and recognized at a public ceremony on July 25th at 4pm, at Donner Center. Please join us to recognize the worthy recipients.
 - b. *Budget* - We are working on draft budgets for 2014. Dates for the Council budget hearings have not been scheduled yet. It looks like it will be an afternoon in early August where Council members will be able to ask questions of department heads instead of presenting our budgets. We will keep you posted on the dates and would love to have you attend.
 - c. *Capital* - We are constantly updating our capital plans and are working on a 5 year plan for 2014-2018. Capital budgeting and discussions will be part of this year's City Council budget hearings.
 - d. *Hamilton Center* - The restroom project is underway and the roofing project is being advertised this month. We are very excited about these improvements. Feedback from user groups and the community have been very positive. The private fundraising effort, led by Jim Henderson and the Park Foundation, has been going very well. We are meeting with Heritage Fund this month to request support for this great community project.
 - e. *Mill Race Park Amphitheater Re-design Committee* - This committee was formed as part of an effort to further the Mayor's Strategic Plan for the City including improvements to the arts and entertainment district. Community leaders, arts enthusiasts, and Parks and Rec staff have met several times to discuss options for improvements. The next step will be to develop an RFP for professional services and architectural consulting. Jackson Sargent, the new Purchasing Manager for the City, will be assisting in development of the RFP.
2. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:
Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:
 - a. There were 14 parties held for the month of June. All but one party time has been reserved for the month of July.
 - b. We had 19 enrolled for the gymnastics camp for ages 5-7 that was held June 10-13. The staff did a wonderful job with the camp.
 - c. We had a full cheer camp of 20 for ages 6-8 from June 17-20. The campers learned new cheers, worked on tumbling and small stunts. They performed a short routine on Thursday for their parents and did a great job!
 - d. Country Kids Daycare visited twice in June bringing a total of 24 children to the facility for an open gym.

- e. Teens from the Boys & Girls Club are visiting on Mondays for the summer. Approximately 25 attended on June 10th, 18 on June 17th and 15 on June 24th.
- f. Younger members of the Boys & Girls' Club visited on June 18th from 9-11am with approximately 80 attending (40 per hour). They also visited on June 21st from 11-12:30pm with approximately 50 in attendance.
- g. Kids First Daycare visited for a field trip on Friday, June 28th.
- h. Open gym numbers for June were:
 - Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS): 491
 - Weekly Family Open Gym (Th & Sat): 153
 - Ages 7-up: 23
- i. A total of 81 children from the "Come Out & Play" playground program visited on Thursday, June 27th from 2-4pm.
- j. Registration for July camps is going well. The Cheer Camp for ages 3-5 from July 9-11 is full with 20 enrolled. Cheer Camp for ages 9-12 will be held July 15-18 with 10 enrolled as of July 1st. The Tumbling Camp for ages 8-15 will be held July 22-25 and there were only 4 openings as of July 1st.

Recreation - Events:

- a. Sidewalk Sunday School is being presented by First Christian Church on Fridays from July 12-Aug. 2 at Pence St. Park from 5:15-7:45pm. It is a free program for the neighborhood.
- b. Carnival Time, a FREE FUN Day, will be held July 19 from 1:30-3pm at Donner Center. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- c. A FREE Donner Park Variety Show will be held at Donner shelter on July 20th from 7-9pm. The show is co-sponsored by Parks & Recreation, Kiwanis Club of Columbus and News Talk Radio 1010 WCSI.
- d. Columbus Indian Association Summer Fest 2013, an annual event at Mill Race Park, will be held July 20th from 6-10pm. Admission is free with proceeds from games and food to be donated to Love Chapel. The event will also feature entertainment with singers and dancers.
- e. A wedding is scheduled for July 27th at the Mill Race arbor.
- f. The Annual Family Bingo/Make Your Own Sunday Night is set for July 31 at Donner Center from 6:30-8pm. There are just a few spaces remaining for this popular event.
- g. Attendance for June events:
 - June 8 Free Battle of the Bands: approximately 600 in attendance
 - June 8 Free Donner Variety Show: approximately 300
 - June 15 - Free Juneteenth Celebration at 9th St. Park: approximately 125 in attendance
 - June 20 Free Noon Kids Concert at Donner shelter - approximately 200
 - June 21 Free Fun Day - Mime Fun with Jolie - approximately 150 attending
 - June 27 Free Noon Kids Concert - approximately 300 attending
 - June 28 Free Fun Day - Luau Laugh A Lot - approximately 250 attending

Programs:

- a. The "Come Out & Play" supervised playground program was well attended in the month of June. Total attendance was 1,225. Morningside Park, the newest playground site this summer, continues to grow. We are now averaging 12-15 children per day there. Due to the increase in attendance we are now able to add them to our sites where lunch is served through a partnership with BCSC. This is at no cost to the department. We started serving lunch on June 24th. We have also started sending the "snack packs" home with the children from Morningside as well. Playground Supervisors are now making almost 200 snack packs a week. These are lunch sacks with non-perishable items such as granola bars, pretzels, applesauce, fruit cups, etc. We are handing these out at 9th St., Pence St. & Morningside Parks. Thursday field trips for June were:
 - June 6 - Donner Pool for all 5 playground sites
 - June 13 - Harrison Ridge Park, Parkside School and Morningside Parks - Donner Pool

- Pence St. and 9th St. Parks - Commons playground and downtown DQ
 - June 20 - Harrison Ridge, Parkside School and Morningside Park - Commons playground and downtown DQ
 - Pence St. and 9th St. parks - Donner Pool
 - June 27 - Columbus Gymnastics Center – all 5 playground sites (81 children attended!)
 - Tuesdays, June 11-25 - 9th St. and Pence St. Parks to Donner Pool
- b. Day Camps for July:
- Kids In Motion (ages 8-12), July 8-12, Smith School. The camp included field trips for bowling, roller skating, ice skating, batting cages, swimming, along with sports and games at Smith School. Highlight of the week was a trip to Monkey Joe's indoor inflatable center in Southport.
 - Over the Rainbow Camp (ages 3-4 and 5-7) July 15-19 at Donner Center. Campers will explore the colors of the rainbow through various activities. Highlight of the week will be a special guest from kidscommons with a program on "Our World through Shapes & Colors"
 - **Project: S*H*K*S*P*R** - July 15-19 (ages 10-14). This drama camp co-sponsored with Columbus North High School Theater Dept. will be held at North Auditorium. Campers will perform for family and friends on Friday night the 19th.
 - American Girl Doll Camp, July 23-25, (ages 5-10), 2 sessions will be held (9-11:30am and 1:30-4pm) at Donner Center. Various activities will be featured based on the American Girl Doll series. Highlight of the week will be a trip to The Woods riding stables for horseback riding. This is one of the interests of the 2013 Doll of the Year, Saige.
 - Super Sitters & More (ages 11-up) 2-4pm, July 22-25. The first 2 days of Super Sitters Only has a FULL registration! The "& More" Days on Thursday and Friday have only 5 openings left as of 7/2/13.
 - Art Attack! for ages 8-12 will be held July 29-31st at Donner Center from 9am-2pm. The camp has only 4 spots left! Campers will experience marshmallow crafting, working with clay, making "Sharpie" art and having a "trash to treasure" day.
- c. The following "\$3 A Day" Field Trips will be held this month. Trips will include:
- July 23rd - Variety Day Field Trip featuring one hour stops at Greenbelt Golf Course, Hamilton Center Ice Arena, batting cages and Columbus Gymnastics Center.
 - July 25: Donner Pool & Dessert Day.

Teens:

- a. Teen Council will sponsor a pool party at Donner Pool on July 20 for the monthly "Something to Do" series of events.
 - b. Teen Council is also working hard getting sponsors and supplies needed for the 2nd annual "Glow in the Park" 5K Walk/Run on Friday, Aug. 2 at 11:59pm at Mill Race Park. The event is a fund-raiser for Teen Council. We'll kick the night off with a DJ on stage at the amphitheater from 9-11pm.
3. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:
- Programs/Tournaments:*
- a. 2013 Youth baseball has ended.
 - b. Youth Fastpitch League continues.
 - c. Youth Fall Soccer registration started.
 - d. Adult Summer Volleyball continues.
 - e. Adult Summer Soccer continues.
 - f. Adult Fall Kickball registration started.
 - g. Adult Fall Soccer registration starts early July.
 - h. Prep work for upcoming fall sports and BCSC sports (Tennis, Soccer) is underway.
 - i. Express Soccer spring season ended.
 - j. CSA summer season continues.

- k. June was a great tournament month:
 - State Soccer Tournament: Over 120 teams
 - (2) USFA Fastpitch Tournaments: Over 220 teams
 - (2) Baseball Tournaments: Over 65 teams
 - NSA Fastpitch: Over 50 teams
- l. July will be another busy month for tournaments:
 - CYO Soccer – July 4-5
 - NSA Fastpitch – July 6-7
 - USSSA Baseball World Series – July 10-14
 - ASA Fastpitch – July 19-21
 - ISA Seniors – July 25-28

Athletic Facilities:

- a. Working closely with all those involved with Capital Projects going on throughout Parks Department. Projects include:
 - Hamilton Center:
 - Restroom
 - Roof
 - Windows/Doors
 - System Repairs
 - Soccer:
 - Restrooms
- b. Working closely with fundraising group for Hamilton Center updates.
- c. Routine maintenance continues on all facilities.
- d. Work continues on BCSC outdoor athletic facilities.
- e. Travis Tindell and the rest of the Athletic Facilities team have been doing a wonderful job maintaining all of the outdoor facilities, Hamilton Center and keeping up with all the tournaments. We continue to receive great comments from users, families, etc. at all of our facilities/parks.
- f. Prep work continues for upcoming fall sports programs.

Hamilton Center:

- a. We have 88 kids in our park and rec classes this summer and they are in full swing.
- b. Our Adult Hockey League has grown this year, we have a total of six teams and it is going to be close to see who wins the league as they all seem evenly matched.
- c. We had a Speed Skating Camp in June which was five days long and had 21 skaters.
- d. Broomball has started their summer league.
- e. Our ice time is also filling up with the Bloomington Figure skaters and Hockey teams.
- f. Morning ice has been full with our figure skaters getting ready for a competition in July.

4. Katia Hatter reported for Marketing and Public Relations:

a. *Facebook/Twitter:*

Our Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to grow! As of today, we have 2,095 followers on Facebook and 447 followers on Twitter for our Parks & Rec pages and 1,885 followers on our Commons Facebook page and 313 followers on The Commons Twitter account. As always, we gain followers from current followers "sharing" the page with their friends, so if you are on Facebook, please become a fan and share these pages with your friends! This continues to be a tremendous "daily" marketing tool for both our Department and The Commons.

LIKE the Columbus Park Foundation page! We are up to 268 likes as of today! Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusParkFoundation>. You can help us grow by sharing the page with others!

b. *Columbus Park Foundation:*

I have been working closely with April Williams and the volunteer steering committee on publicity for the 2nd Annual Sneakers at Starlight event. This year's event will be held Friday, September 6 from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at the Mill Race Park Round

Lake (or The Commons in case of rain). Tickets are now available at <http://www.columbusparkfoundation.org> for \$70/individual or \$100/couple (if purchased by August 15). We would love to have you join us for this event, which will benefit renovations and improvements at Hamilton Center Ice Arena. Don't forget your decorated sneakers!

c. *Summer Programming:*

Summer programming is off and running this week. Our phones have been busy and the internet is buzzing with registrations! We are looking forward to another great summer. **So far, we have 2,701 kids and adults registered for our summer programs.** With a month left until school begins, we expect to reach over 3,000 residents impacted by summer programming (not to include those participating in our free programs, including the Come Out & Play Playground program, attendance at Donner Aquatic Center and casual parks users).

As always, if you have comments or concerns with how we're doing in the marketing/public relations area, please feel free to contact me anytime via email (khatter@columbus.in.gov) or via phone (343-8864 or 376-2696). I'd love to hear from you!

Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:

- a. Park Ops has been working hard in the month of June. June is our first full month into the summer season.
- b. The Grounds Crew has had some challenges with mowing due to all the rain we have received this month. They have been doing weed control and pruning. The trails are receiving a lot of pruning and cleaning as well. The crew is also working on the Live Roof at The Commons.
- c. The Cleaning Crew is continuing to clean shelter and restrooms. The cooler temps have kept the usage of the shelters in the parks high again this month. They have been working with the Athletic Crew on tournament clean up. They have been supporting some work for our events.
- d. The Maintenance Crew has been busy with restroom repairs, water line repairs and has done repairs to a couple of our sidewalks. They worked with a volunteer group in the skate park as well to do some minor repairs. They have also been completing work orders for some of the recent events.
- e. The Garage Staff has been busy with a few break downs and the monthly services for the fleet. During this busy season, it is imperative that equipment is working and running correctly. The crew has been doing a great job.
- f. The Commons Staff was busy again this month with rentals and events. The conference rooms, as well as the performance space, has been used a lot this past month. The playground also had over 12 field trips. It should be noted that these are large groups that we do not know are coming. The extra usage can become a challenge at times. The crew is doing a great job meeting that challenge.
- g. The Donner Crew has also been busy with rentals. They have also been supporting Kathy and the summer camps. The pool is open and the equipment is in working order.
- h. The FFY Staff have been busy with cleaning and repairs. The building is being used more since school is out with camps and other special events taking place. More cleaning is needed with the additional children in the building. The crew also replaced a water fountain and performed a few other minor repairs.

- c: Mayor Kristen Brown
Councilman Dascal Bunch
Jeff Logston
Parks & Recreation FT Employees